

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2017

The Honorable David Pekoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Administrator Pekoske:

We write to you today to urge you to consider allowing TSA screening equipment to remain at the Crater Lake-Klamath Regional Airport (LMT) in Klamath Falls, Oregon as the airport actively recruits another carrier to resume service at the airport. As that search continues, maintaining this security infrastructure will help reduce future logistical burdens for both the airport and the agency.

Until this past August, PenAir had been the sole provider of commercial air service in and out of Klamath Falls. PenAir's bankruptcy and abrupt decision to pull out of several small, regional airports in the Northwest—including Klamath Falls—forced the community to begin recruiting another carrier. Removal of the existing TSA equipment would present a burden to those recruitment efforts. Given the lack of notification ahead of PenAir's cancellation of service, the airport and local community should be allowed time to conduct recruitment unhindered by such logistical and administrative burdens.

Commercial air service has proven to be a critical asset for the economy of Klamath Falls, including the National Guard Base located at the airport. Home to the 173rd Fighter Wing and our nation's sole training facility for F-15 pilots, the Kingsley Field Air National Guard (ANG) Base is one of the largest employers in Klamath Falls. It is our understanding that commercial air service is an asset to their recruitment and retention of ANG personnel, and to facilitating their training mission.

The local community understands well the diverse benefits that air service provides. That's why they are working to find a replacement. As they do that, we respectfully request that you allow TSA screening equipment to temporarily remain at the airport until such time that a robust recruitment of potential replacement carriers has been completed.

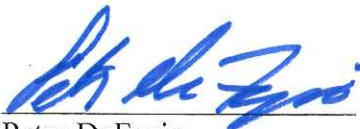
Best regards,



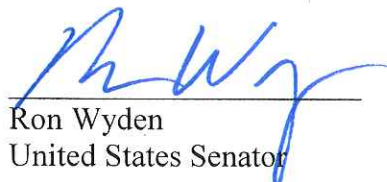
Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator